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Honorable Catherine May
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D.C.

concl

ER

Dear Mrs. May:

This is in response to your letter of 9 September 1960 concerning an inquiry received from a constituent regarding the conditions of salary payments to Mr. Francis G. Powers. Arrangements have been made to handle Mr. Powers' salary for the future in accordance with his legal rights under his contract and the provisions of applicable statutes.

You may appreciate that many of the points on which comment might be made are still in the classified field. In addition, even though the trial by the Soviets is over, Mr. Powers is still a prisoner in their hands. Hence, we must be careful in our comments that we do nothing to make his personal situation more difficult.

I would like to note that Mr. Powers was held over 100 days in solitary confinement without access to family, friends, his own legal advisors, or any United States representative prior to his trial. Undoubtedly, the Soviets could have indoctrinated him during that period to say many things they desired to have come out at the trial. This they can accomplish effectively even short of all the techniques of "brainwashing."

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY H. L. [Signature])

The service performed by the men who participated in the U-2 program was extremely valuable for the security of this country. They were chosen on the basis of past training and other technical, mental, and ideological qualifications, together with a willingness to serve and full knowledge of the dangers inherent to the task.

While the foregoing may not answer fully the points you have raised, I hope you will find it helpful. At this time I do not feel that it would be in the interests of the prisoner, Mr. Powers, or of national security to say more.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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OGC/LC/JGO:jmd (14 Oct 60)

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